



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/004,685

12/05/2001

Janne Haavisto

442-010740-US(PAR)

7613

2512 7590
PERMAN & GREEN
425 POST ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

01/17/2007

EXAMINER

LAM, HUNG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
--	-----------	---------------

3 MONTHS

01/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,685

Applicant(s)

HAAVISTO, JANNE

Examiner

Hung H. Lam

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments, filed on 10/23/06, have been entered and made of record. Claims 1-22 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 11/06/06 fails to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609 because an English translation of patent application JP2000-134,467 is not provided. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered as to the merits. Applicant is advised that the date of any re-submission of any item of information contained in this information disclosure statement or the submission of any missing element(s) will be the date of submission for purposes of determining compliance with the requirements based on the time of filing the statement, including all certification requirements for statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e). See MPEP § 609.05(a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claims 1, 2, 11-12, 15-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (7,010,144) in view of Gindele (US-6,636,646).

With regarding to **claim 1**, Davis discloses a method for the transmission of data between a camera module and an electronic device (Fig. 1; see the connections between camera 10 and other electronics device; Col. 4, Ln. 12-34), said method comprising the steps of generating image data in the image sensor of the camera module (Figs. 1; camera 10), said image sensor comprising at least one row of pixels, and said image data comprising the data generated by said row of pixels (the image sensor 16 inherently includes at least one row of pixels and generates image data from the row of pixel).

However, Davis fails to explicitly discloses the steps of collecting statistical data from the image data, wherein said statistical data is suitable for processing an image to be generated; and wherein the method further comprises: transmitting said image data and said statistical data from the camera module to the electronic device essentially at the same time.

In the same field of endeavor, Gindele teaches a camera system wherein a source digital image is received and processed by a digital image processor (Figs. 2-3; 20) in order to calculate a brightness balance value (Col. 5, Ln. 3-6). Gindele further teaches that the source digital image and the brightness balance value are transmitted over a computer network (Figs. 2-3; 45) wherein

the digital image processor (Fig. 3; 20) of a second computer system receives the source digital image and uses the brightness balance value to adjust the overall brightness of the digital image in a manner such that a pleasing looking image is produced (Figs. 2-3; Col. 5, Ln. 6-36). In light of the teaching from Gindele, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Davis to transmit a source image and brightness balance value of the source image over a communication system. The modifications thus permit a second computer system to enhance the look of the received source image using the received brightness balance value (Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 6-36).

With regarding to **claim 2**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said image data and said statistical data are transmitted interlaced with each other on at least one common bus (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 12-34; Gindele: Col. 4, Ln. 49-Col. 5, Ln. 36).

With regarding to **claim 11**, Davis discloses a device comprising a camera module and an electronic device (Fig. 1; see the connections between camera 10 and other electronics device; Col. 4, Ln. 12-34), comprising means for generating image data in the image sensor of the camera module (Figs. 1; camera 10), said image sensor comprising at least one row of pixels and said image data comprising the data generated by said rows of pixels (the image sensor 16 inherently includes at least one row of pixels and generates image data from the row of pixel),

However, Davis fails to explicitly disclose a means for collecting statistical data on said image data, wherein said statistical data is suitable for processing an image to be generated; wherein the device further comprises means for transmitting image data and statistical data from the camera module to the electronic device essentially at the same time.

In the same field of endeavor, Gindele teaches a camera system wherein a source digital image is received and processed by a digital image processor (Figs. 2-3; 20) in order to calculate a brightness balance value (Col. 5, Ln. 3-6). Gindele further teaches that the source digital image and the brightness balance value are transmitted over a computer network (Figs. 2-3; 45) wherein the digital image processor (Fig. 3; 20) of a second computer system receives the source digital image and uses the brightness balance value to adjust the overall brightness of the digital image in a manner such that a pleasing looking image is produced (Figs. 2-3; Col. 5, Ln. 6-36). In light of the teaching from Gindele, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Davis to transmit a source image and brightness balance value of the source image over a communication system. The modifications thus permit a second computer system to enhance the look of the received source image using the received brightness balance value (Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 6-36).

With regarding to **claim 12**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses the same limitations as recited in claim 3. Therefore, claim 12 is analyzed and rejected as discussed in claim 3.

With regarding to **claim 15**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11. Further more, Davis discloses a device wherein the device also comprises means for generating an image-processing parameter from the transmitted statistical data (Davis: Col. 2, Ln. 15- Col. 3, Ln.29; Col. 4, Ln. 50-59; Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 3-6).

With regarding to **claim 16**, Davis discloses a device, wherein in addition, the device comprises means for image data processing to process the transmitted image data based on said image-processing parameter (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 50-59; Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 3-6).

With regarding to **claim 17**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a device wherein said means for image data processing have been implemented for processing the image to be generated (Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 6-36).

With regarding to **claim 18**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a device wherein said means for image data processing have additionally been implemented to control the image sensor in acquiring the next image (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 50-59; Col. 6, Ln. 19-55).

With regarding to **claim 19**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a device wherein said device comprising said camera module and said electronic device is a mobile communications terminal (Davis: Fig. 2; Col. 4, Ln. 35-68).

With regarding to **claim 21**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said collecting of statistical data from said image data performed said camera module, said statistical data including image brightness (Gindele: Col. 4, Ln. 48-Col. 5, Ln. 35).

With regarding to **claim 22**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses the same limitations as claimed in claim 21. Therefore, claim 22 is analyzed and rejected as discussed in claim 21.

6. Claims 3-5, 7-10, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Gindele.

With regarding to **claim 3**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said image data and said statistical data are transmitted in the same data frame (Davis: Fig. 3), said data frame comprising at least one image data unit at least one statistical data unit (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 13-35; Col. 11, Ln. 42-Col. 12, Ln. 68). However, Davis and Gindele fail to disclose the data frame comprising at least one synchronization code to separate said image data unit from said statistical data unit.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to add a specific synchronization pattern, or sequence to the leading end or both the leading and trailing ends of each block of data or frame in order to transmit numerous data links between integrated circuit. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Davis and Gindele to include at least one synchronization code in order to separate each block of image data and statistical data unit and thereby improving the way of identifying individual block of data in according to the recognized synchronization codes.

As Applicant has not traversed the old and well known statement set forth above, "the data frame comprising at least one at least one synchronization code to separate said image data unit from said statistical data unit" is now taken as admitted prior art. See MPEP 2144.03(c).

With regarding to **claim 4**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said image data unit comprises image data generated by at least one said row of pixels (it is inherent

Art Unit: 2622

that image sensor 16 comprises at least one row of pixels) and that said statistical data unit comprises statistical data for said image data generated by at least one row of pixels (Davis: Col. 2, Ln. 51- Col. 3, Ln.28; Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 3-13).

With regarding to **claim 5**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said row of pixels is a vertical or horizontal row in said image sensor (the image pickup device 16 of Davis reference and 10 of Gindele reference are inherently included vertical and horizontal row of pixels).

With regarding to **claims 7**, Davis in view of Gindele fails to explicitly disclose wherein the camera module and the electronic device are integrated into one single device and that said bus is a device-internal bus.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to integrate the camera module, the electronic device and the bus into a single multimedia camera chip in order to reduce the space, power constraints and overall cost. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Davis and Gindele by having the camera module, the electronic device, and the serial bus integrated into one single device in order to provide an improve image pickup unit and thereby reducing space, power, and overall cost.

As Applicant has not traversed the old and well known statement set forth above, “wherein the camera module and the electronic device are integrated into one single device and that said bus is a device-internal bus” is now taken as admitted prior art. See MPEP 2144.03(c).

With regarding to **claim 8**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said transmitted statistical data is used as the generation basis for at least one parameter related to image processing (Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 3-35).

With regarding to **claim 9**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said at least one image-processing parameter created is used for the processing of the image to be generated (Gindele: Col. 5, Ln. 3-35).

With regarding to **claim 10**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a method wherein said at least one image-processing parameter is used for adjusting the image sensor of the camera module to generate image data for the next image (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 50-59; Col. 6, Ln. 19-55).

With regarding to **claim 13**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses a device wherein said data frame comprises said image data and said statistical data interlaced with each other and that said data frame is transmitted from the camera module to the electronic device on at least one bus (Davis: Col. 4, Ln. 12-34; the bus is interpreted as one of the USB, Parallel ports, PCI, IEEE 1394 or other networked devices; Gindele: Col. 4, Ln. 49-Col. 5, Ln. 36).

With regarding to **claim 20**, Davis in view of Gindele discloses the same limitations as claimed in claim 7. Therefore, claim 20 is analyzed and rejected as discussed in claim 7.

7. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Gindele and further in view of Shimizu (US-6,515,271).

With regarding to **claim 6**, Davis in view of Gindele fails to explicitly disclose wherein said data frame is transmitted from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. However, the limitations are well known in the art as taught by Shimizu.

In the same field of endeavor, Shimizu teaches a CMOS image sensor unit using low voltage differential signaling (LVDS) circuit as means for transmitting image data between transmitting side (CMOS image sensor unit) and the receiving side (CPU and Memory) (Fig. 4-5; Col. 7, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 8, Ln. 1-35). In light of the teaching from Shimizu, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Davis and Gindele by having a low voltage differential signal circuit to transmits and receives data in order to transmit the data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. The modifications thus provide serial data transmission with low power consumption, less noise interference and less image deterioration (Shimizu ; Col. 2, Ln. 62-67).

With regarding to **claim 14**, Davis in view of Gindele fails to explicitly disclose wherein said data transmission means are additionally implemented for transmitting said data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. However, the limitations are well known in the art as taught by Shimizu.

In the same field of endeavor, Shimizu teaches a CMOS image sensor unit using low voltage differential signaling (LVDS) circuit as a mean for transmitting image data between transmitting side (CMOS image sensor unit) and the receiving side (CPU and Memory) (Fig. 4-

5; Col. 7, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 8, Ln. 1-35). In light of the teaching from Shimizu, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Davis and Gindele by having a low voltage differential signal circuit to transmit and receives data in order to transmit the data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. The modifications thus provide serial data transmission with low power consumption, less noise interference and less image deterioration (Shimizu ; Col. 2, Ln. 62-67).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Dean (US-6,771,323) discloses a communication system wherein the transmitted metadata include information regarding image data and brightness information.

b) Windle (US-6,686,970) discloses a multi-mediate method and apparatus wherein a corresponding metadata generated for an image can be based upon average color and average brightness.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 2622

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-7367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, NGOC YEN VU can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL

01/07/07


NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER